

Long Island Beekeepers 4/24/16 Meeting

Managed Pollinator Protection Plan

1. The plan has not been made public
2. The Governor's budget proposed and approved \$500,000 for the PPP.
3. What I can talk about is the work that has been done over the last five years for NYS beekeepers.
 - a. A pilot program developed around our Honey Bee Health program and the other bee programs going on since 2008.
 1. National Honey Bee Survey (NHBS) started for NYS in 2010.
 2. Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) started in 2011.
 3. Honey Bee Health Program started in 2008.
 4. The standard Certification Program.
 5. Pesticide loss working with Department of Environmental Conservation
 - b. The result of all these programs provided a pattern of large losses. Five beekeepers totaling 16,000 colonies had lost 11,600 or 72.5% of their colonies in the active bee season.
 - c. Cornell felt this was an emergency situation and asked a member of Cornell's Entomology facility, Dr. Scott McArt to become involved in doing research on why colonies are dying in NYS. He started the work in 2014.
 - d. President Obama in June of 2014 asked the states to create a Task Force to address the Pollinator Protection Plan (PPP).
 - e. The PPP Task Force had meetings in August, September and October of 2015. The meetings were at NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and it was co-hosted by the Environmental Conservation Department.
 - f. This bring us up to date with \$500,000 for PPP for NYS

What the Department has determined are some of the major issues causing the loss of colonies in NYS:

1. **Varroa mites:** 50% of the bee population in each colony each year. (Pests & Pathogens)
2. **Queens:** NYS beekeepers that raise their own queens from superior queen stock
3. The lack of understanding what are "winter bees" and how they are so important to the survival of colonies of bees (Ecology)

4. Result is beekeepers are working with juvenile colonies and not adult colonies.
(Ecology)
5. The ratio of months of pesticide exposure to the months of no pesticides **(Pesticides)**
6. Climate Change **(Climate Change)**

USDA reasons for die off:

1. Pest & Pathogen
2. Pesticide
3. Honey bee genetic variation
4. Habitat
5. Climate change